

Applic. No. : 09/688,462

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

~~Claims 1, 3-11, and 14-18 remain in the application. Claims~~

1, 3-7, 11, and 18 have been amended. Claims 2 and 19-22 have been cancelled.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1, 2, 14, 16, and 18-21 have been rejected as being anticipated by *Pensavecchia* (US 5,660,108) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 of the Office action, the Examiner stated that:

Applicant's arguments filed on 6-24-2003 and 7-2-2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's argument that *Pensavecchia* does not disclose a displaceable feeding device because only the accelerating rollers 72a and 72b of *Pensavecchia* can be considered as the feeding device, which is not displaceable, is not agreed to by the examiner. Applicant's interpretation of what constitutes the feeding device of *Pensavecchia* is too narrow and not acceptable. Rollers 72a and 72b of *Pensavecchia* are components of an overall sheet feeding device which should include sheet feeder structure 58, sheet registration station 77 and accelerating rollers 72a and 72b as shown in Fig. 1. To consider the sheet feeding device of *Pensavecchia* to only consist of accelerating rollers 72a and 72b is unrealistic simply because these two rollers are not normally in direct contact with the sheet being printed. The sheet being printed has to be fed and aligned before it reaches rollers 72a and 72b. Therefore, the **sheet feeder 58 and the sheet registration station 77 are all part of an overall sheet feeding device for its intended purpose.** Since the

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present claims only broadly recite a feeding device without defining any structure, it is firmly believed that the overall sheet feeding device as taught by Pensavecchia is more than adequate to meet the requirement of this broad recitation and its functions.

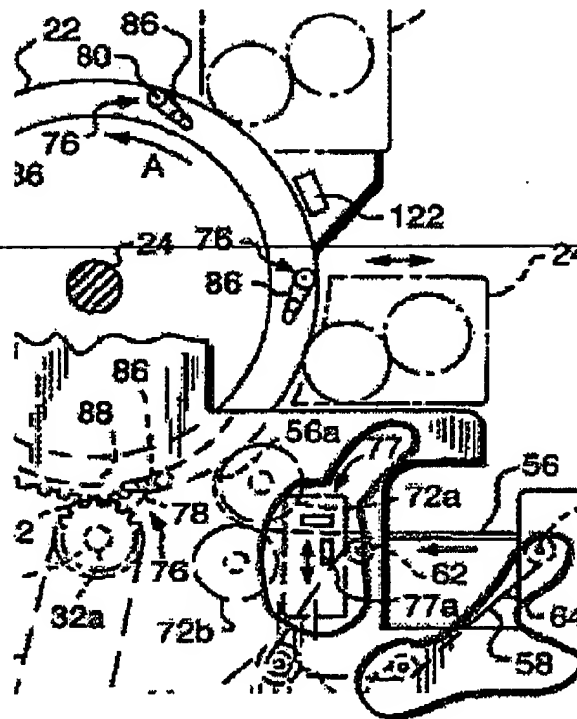
(Emphasis added)

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The rejections and the above-noted Examiner's comments have been considered. Consequently, the subject matter of claim 2 has been added to claim 1 by replacing the feature "feeding device" in claim 1 with "feed drum", in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The same changes were made in the dependent claims.

The relevant part of Fig. 1 of *Pensavecchia*, showing the second impression cylinder or "impression cylinder 22", the sheet feeding device or "accelerating rollers or wheels 72a and 72b", and the adjusting device or "registration station 77", is reproduced below.

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As can be seen from the section of Fig. 1 re-produced, the adjusting device or "registration station 77" (with or without "sheet feeder 58") in *Pensavecchia* is not a "feed drum", as recited in claim 1.

There is no suggestion or disclosure in *Pensavecchia* that the "accelerating rollers or wheels 72a and 72b" are displaceable, or displaceable by an adjusting device for adjusting and correcting registration of the "accelerating rollers or wheels 72a and 72b". To the contrary, the "accelerating rollers or wheels 72a and 72b" appear to be fixed in position. It is the purpose of the "registration station 77" in *Pensavecchia* to adjust the registration of the (paper) sheets, not of the "accelerating rollers or wheels 72a and 72b".

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Accordingly, the "accelerating rollers or wheels 72a and 72b" of *Pensavecchia* **cannot** be equated with the "feed drum", as recited in claim 1.

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It is accordingly believed to be clear that *Pensavecchia* does not show the feature "feed drum", as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and because claims 2-11 and 14-18 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In the third paragraph on page 3 of the Office action, claims 3-11, 15, and 22 have been rejected as being obvious over *Pensavecchia* in view of *Mueller et al.* (US 5,802,973) and *Drapatsky et al.* (US 5,103,733) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In the second paragraph on page 4 of the Office action, claim 17 has been rejected as being obvious over *Pensavecchia* in view of *Giori et al.* (US 6,101,939) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Considering the deficiencies of the primary reference *Pensavecchia*, it is believed not to be necessary at this stage to address the secondary references *Mueller et al.*, *Drapatsky et al.*, and *Giori et al.* applied in the rejection of certain dependent claims, and whether or not there is sufficient suggestion or motivation with a reasonable expectation of

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success for modifying or combining the references as required by MPEP § 2143.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Counsel so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-11, and 14-18 are solicited.

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

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Respectfully submitted,



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October 16, 2003

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